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ANNUAL  
REPORT

OF THE  
MEDICAL OFFICER OF  
HEALTH

(JOHN F. MACDONALD, M.D., D.P.H.)

(Barrister-at-Law)

FOR

1947

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W. H. HOULDERSHAW, LTD., PRINTERS, 49-55, LONDON ROAD  
SOUTHEND-ON-SEA.



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LONDON ROAD,  
CHELMSFORD.

10th April, 1948.

**To the Chairman and Members of the Rochford  
Rural District Council.**

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting for your consideration my Annual Report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1947.

At the end of the Report I have given a summary of the past public health activities in the area, which I hope may interest members.

For much assistance in the preparation of this report I am indebted to Mr. Jepson, Chief Sanitary Inspector, and to my other colleagues for information supplied.

This being my final Report, may I express my appreciation to all my colleagues for the willing assistance given to me at all times, and to the Council for their consideration extended to me during a period of thirty-four years.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN F. MACDONALD.



## STAFF

S. C. HARRIS, *Clerk to the Council.*

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## PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

*Medical Officer of Health*: John F. Macdonald, M.D., D.P.H., (also Medical Officer of Health for the Rural Districts of Chelmsford and Maldon).

*Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health*: W. D. Hall.

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## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S DEPARTMENT.

Chief Sanitary Inspector, Inspector of Meat and Other Foods and Petroleum Inspector : H. Jepson, M.R.San.I., M.I.S.A.

Temporary Clerks to the Sanitary Inspector : Mrs. N. E. Howson, from February, 1945. Shorthand Typist : Miss P. M. Furguson, from April, 1946. General Assistant: J. W. Brittain from March, 1946.

D. G. Stripp, (in H.M. Forces since August, 1944) resumed duty as General Assistant on 1st December, 1947.

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## ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR.

*Engineer and Surveyor and Town Planning Officer*: A. N. Box M.Inst.M.Cy.E., A.M.T.P.I., M.R.San.I.

# STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

---

Area (acres)	...	...	...	36,080	...	(land and inland waters)
Resident Population mid. 1947				17,480	...	(estimated by Registrar General)
1931 census population (post County review)	...			13,969	...	(6,864 males, 7,105 females)
Number of inhabited houses at 1931 census (post County review)	...	...	...	4,250		
Estimated number of houses at the end of 1947			...	5,912		
The Rateable value of the District for the half-year ended 31st March, 1947, was				£103,524		
Product of a penny rate, year ended 31st March, 1947	...			£417 17s. 1d.		

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**Social Conditions.** A large proportion of the adult population is engaged in agriculture, and owing to the railway facilities an increasing number of people engaged in business in Greater London reside in the district.

The brick making industry is resuming its pre-war activity.

Consideration is being given to the question of the establishment of light industry within the District.

The industries carried on in the district cannot be said to be detrimental to the health of those engaged therein.

# Extracts from vital statistics of the year.

		Total	Male	Female	
Live Births	{ Legitimate	366	212	154	Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population—21.1
	{ Illegitimate	14	9	5	
Still Births	{ Legitimate	7	2	5	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 20.6
	{ Illegitimate	1	—	1	
Deaths	... ..	255	121	134	Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population 14.5

Deaths from Puerperal and Post abortive sepsis ... Nil  
 „ „ Other maternal causes ... .. Nil

Number of deaths of infants under 1 year of age :—

Males 8 (Illegitimate 1), Females 2 (Illegitimate 1) Total 10  
 Deaths of infants under 1 year of age :—

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	21
Illegitimate „ „ „ illegitimate „ „	142
Total „ „ „ total „ „	26
Death from Measles (all ages) ... ..	Nil
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... ..	Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) ...	1
„ „ Cancer (all ages) ... ..	42

## COMPARATIVE TABLE OF BIRTH AND DEATH RATES DURING THE YEAR 1947.

	Rate per 1,000 civilian population		Deaths under one year per 1,000 registered live births
	Live Births	Deaths from all causes	
England and Wales ... ..	20.5	12.0	41
126 County Boroughs and Great Towns including London ... ..	23.3	13.0	47
148 Smaller Towns with estimated resident population of from 25,000 to 50,000 (1931 Census) ... ..	22.2	11.9	36
Rochford Rural District ... ..	21.1	14.5	26



The following table classifies the deaths according to cause and sex—

Causes of Death	Males	Females	Totals
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—
Measles ... ..	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Whooping Cough ... ..	—	—	—
Diphtheria ... ..	—	—	—
Influenza ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Inf. Encephalitis ... ..	—	—	—
Cerebro Spinal Fever ... ..	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	1	—	1
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	2	1	3
Other Tuberculous Diseases ... ..	—	1	1
Syphilitic Diseases ... ..	1	—	1
Cancer ... ..	22	20	42
Diabetes ... ..	1	1	2
Intra Cranial vascular lesions ...	12	20	32
Heart Disease ... ..	35	52	87
Other Circulatory Diseases ... ..	6	6	12
Bronchitis ... ..	4	1	5
Pneumonia (all forms) ... ..	12	11	23
Other Respiratory Diseases ... ..	2	1	3
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum ...	2	3	5
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ... ..	—	1	1
Appendicitis ... ..	—	1	1
Other Digestive Diseases ... ..	2	1	3
Nephritis ... ..	1	1	2
Puerperal and Post abortive sepsis ...	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes ... ..	—	—	—
Malformation, etc. ... ..	5	1	6
Premature Birth ... ..	1	—	1
Suicide ... ..	1	—	1
Road traffic accidents ... ..	1	—	1
Other violent causes ... ..	3	2	5
All other causes ... ..	7	10	17
TOTALS ...	121	134	255

## NUMBER OF DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES.

		Occurring in district	Of non- residents occurring in district	Of residents occurring outside district	Allotted to district
Under 1 year ... ..		77	67	—	10
1 and under 2 ... ..		2	1	—	1
2 „ „ 5 ... ..		2	1	—	1
5 „ „ 15 ... ..		2	1	1	2
15 „ „ 25 ... ..		9	8	1	2
25 „ „ 35 ... ..		12	7	2	7
35 „ „ 45 ... ..		27	20	1	8
45 „ „ 55 ... ..		49	39	2	12
55 „ „ 65 ... ..		128	92	4	40
65 „ „ 75 ... ..		256	199	7	64
75 and upwards ... ..		392	292	8	108
Totals ... ..		956	727	26	255

During part of the first three months of 1947, the weather was abnormally severe, and this is reflected in the number of deaths during that period as compared with the number of deaths in the corresponding periods of 1945 and 1946.

The following table also classifies these deaths according to age

Year and Period	Total Deaths	Under 50	Over 50
January-March 1945	68	11	57
„ „ 1946	64	7	57
„ „ 1947	91	11	80

The natural increase in the population, namely, the excess of the number of births over the number of deaths, is shown in the following tabular statement for the years 1938-47.

During 1938 there were 218 births and 183 deaths, giving a natural increase of 35									
„	1939	„	251	„	183	„	„	„	68
„	1940	„	215	„	220	„	„	„	decrease of 5
„	1941	„	238	„	205	„	„	„	increase of 33
„	1942	„	249	„	220	„	„	„	29
„	1943	„	280	„	209	„	„	„	71
„	1944	„	275	„	191	„	„	„	84
„	1945	„	264	„	220	„	„	„	44
„	1946	„	317	„	245	„	„	„	72
„	1947	„	380	„	255	„	„	„	125

## **GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA**

The District Council consists of 22 elected members who meet monthly.

The following Committees deal directly or indirectly with health matters :—

- Public Health
- Housing
- Town Planning and Plans
- Plans Sub-Committee
- Finance
- Sewerage
- Pleasure Grounds
- General Purposes
- Fire Brigade
- Rating and Valuation

The Council is represented on the—

- South-East Essex United District (Medical Officer of Health) Committee
- South-East Essex Joint Hospital Board
- South-East Essex Superannuation Joint Committee
- South-East Essex Assessment Committee
- South-Eastern Area Guardians Committee
- Rural District Council's Association (Essex Branch)
- Rochford Library Sub-Committee
- National Savings Committee
- South-East Essex Divisional Executive (Education)
- South-East Essex Joint Planning Committee.
- Southend Local Employment Committee.
- Rochford Council and Staff Joint Committee
- Rochford District Road Safety Organisation
- Joint Advisory Committee on Rural Housing

Reports of the Committees are sent out to all members before each Council Meeting.

The minutes of the Council are circulated.

**HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDISED BY THE  
LOCAL AUTHORITY OR BY THE COUNTY  
COUNCIL :—**

(1)—Tuberculosis Hospitals. A number of Sanatoria are available throughout the county. These are provided by the County Council. None of the Institutions so provided is in Rochford Rural District.

(2)—Maternity. Arrangements are made under the County Council's Scheme with certain Hospitals to admit :—

(a) Complicated cases of confinement (Municipal Hospital, Rochford, St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford, Colchester Borough Maternity Home, St. Andrew's Hospital, Billericay, St. Peter's Hospital, Maldon, and Lodge Hospital, Orsett.)

(b) Cases of Puerperal Pyrexia (Colchester, Rush Green, Romford, Waltham Abbey, and Billericay Isolation Hospitals).

(c) Expectant mothers for whom Hospital treatment is necessary.

In connection with (a) and (b) an Obstetric Specialist for consultations with medical practitioners is available.

(3)—CHILDREN. Arrangements are made by the County Council for :—

(a) The examination of children at an Orthopaedic Ascertainment Clinic and for institutional treatment of cases recommended by the Orthopaedic Surgeon. (Pitsea held twice a year and Grays held approximately every two months).

When Hospital Treatment is recommended children can be admitted to The Lodge Hospital, Orsett or Oldchurch County Hospital, Romford, or the Essex County Council Hospital, Black Notley.

Paediatric Specialist :—Services available for consultations with Medical Practitioners and at Clinics.



- (b) *Ophthalmia Neonatorum*.—Arrangements are in force for the admission of children suffering from *Ophthalmia Neonatorum* to Rush Green Isolation Hospital, Romford and Oldchurch County Hospital Romford. Where if for some particular reason the infant cannot be admitted to hospital, the County Council has an arrangement with the Essex County Nursing Association for the provision of a trained nurse at the patient's home.
- (c) Hospital treatment for children suffering from minor ailments, such as tonsils and adenoids, made by the Essex Education Committee (Chelmsford and Essex Hospital, Chelmsford; St. John's Hospital, Chelmsford and Essex County Hospital, Colchester).

(4)—OTHER HOSPITALS. Cases requiring treatment in a General Hospital are admitted to Southend Municipal Hospital, Rochford, under an arrangement with the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea and the Essex County Council. Residents in the district are also admitted for treatment to voluntary hospitals in Southend and London.

(5)—ISOLATION HOSPITAL.—The Hospital situated in Billericay is administered by a Joint Hospital Board on which the district Council is represented.

(6)—A Small-pox Hospital is provided by the Essex County Council. For this purpose the County Council has entered into an agreement with the Borough of Colchester for the provision of Hospital treatment, including ambulance services for small-pox cases.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.—(a) For infectious diseases there is a motor ambulance which is housed at the Isolation Hospital Billericay.

(b) For non-infectious and accident cases arrangements have been made with the St. John Ambulance Brigade (Southend Division), and the Rayleigh Ambulance Committee for their ambulance to be available for cases in the Rural District. There is an agreement in force for the reciprocal use of ambulances throughout the County of Essex.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS, ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS AND HOMELESS CHILDREN IN THE AREA—Accommodation is that provided by the Public Assistance Committee at certain of their Institutions and suitable cases can be admitted to the Hostel at Ardmore, Buckhurst Hill. In addition, infants can be cared for by Foster-Mothers under a guaranteed pay scheme.

Maternity and Child Welfare centres for the district are set out in the table on page 13.

#### Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) *General*.—No arrangements have been made by the District Council, but for General Nursing there are a number of local Nursing Associations throughout the district that employ nurse-midwives. These are under the supervision of the County Nursing Association.

(b) *For Infectious Diseases*.—No arrangement has been made by the District Council.

MIDWIVES.—There were six midwives practising in the district at the end of 1947 (Five are district nurses and the remaining one is in private practice).

REGISTERED NURSING HOMES.—There are none in the district.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.—These facilities are provided by the Essex County Council.

DIABETES TREATMENT.—During the year, Insulin has been supplied free to three persons suffering from Diabetes and for whom no other public provision was made. The authority to provide insulin is repealed as from 5th July, 1948, by the National Health Service Act, 1946.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES (All provided by the County Council).  
 Maternity and Child Welfare Centres.

Centre		Address	Sessions (Monthly)		Medical Officer
Hullbridge	...	Free Church Hall	2nd Monday 2 p.m.	...	Dr. J. C. T. Fiddes
Rochford	...	Rocheway, Rochford	Mondays 2 p.m.	...	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe attends 2nd, 4th and 5th Mondays
Rochford (ante natal Clinic)...	...	Rocheway, Rochford	2nd and 4th Friday afternoons 1.30 p.m.	...	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe
Great Wakering	...	Village Hall	2nd and 4th Thursday afternoons 2 p.m.	...	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe
Great Wakering (ante natal Clinic)	...	Village Hall	1st Thursday 2 p.m.	...	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe
Foulness	...	The Hut	3rd Wednesday 2 p.m. (ante natal patients seen prior to Child Welfare Clinic)	...	Dr. J. B. Ratcliffe
Canewdon (Weighing Centre)	...	Village Hall	2nd Wednesday 2 p.m.	...	No Doctor
Hockley	...	Methodist Hall	1st and 3rd Fridays 1.45 p.m.	...	Dr. J. C. T. Fiddes attends 1st Friday

Address		Hours of Sessions
SCHOOL MINOR AILMENTS CLINICS	Rochford Combined Treatment Centre, Roche Way	Fridays, 10 a.m.
DENTAL CLINICS	do.	Held as and when required.
OPHTHALMIC CLINIC	do.	do.
TUBERCULOSIS DISPENSARY	Southend Dispensary, Warrior Square	1st and 3rd Tuesdays, 10 a.m.—12 noon.

TREATMENT CENTRES FOR VENEREAL DISEASES :—  
 Facilities available at Southend, Chelmsford, Romford, and at a number of London Hospitals.  
 CHILD GUIDANCE CLINICS :—Children seen by appointment at Clinics at Chelmsford and Southend.  
 SPEECH CLINICS :—Children seen by appointment by Speech Therapist. Application should  
 be made to the Divisional School Medical Officer, “Brooklands,” Rayleigh.



## WATER SUPPLY

At the present time, with the exception of Foulness (including Havengore), all the water mains in the District belong to the Southend Waterworks Company. This Company has statutory powers to supply water throughout the District.

From time to time the service mains of the Company are extended.

(a) On the Company's own initiative.

(b) Under contract with the District Council who guarantee an agreed income from water rates as a result of the extension. This guarantee continues until, on three consecutive years the amount collected by the Company by means of water rates, is equal to the annual guaranteed sum.

Excluding the parishes of Foulness (including Havengore), which is supplied by private water mains, the Southend Waterworks Company provide 87 per cent of the dwelling houses in the District with a piped water supply.

In outlying areas of the District a number of premises used for human habitation have to depend on rainwater collected from the roofs. The supply gives out during long periods of drought, and it was necessary for the Council to cart water to a number of premises from August to December, 1947.

Requests for a water main were received from residents in certain roads without a piped water supply, and the Council agreed to erect a standpipe from the existing mains at the end of such roads. This means of supply was refused by the residents concerned, except in two roads—White Hart Lane, Hawkwell, and Wellington Avenue, Hullbridge, where the standpipes were erected by the Council in accordance with the requirements of the Water Company. The Council is responsible for the recovery of the water rate.

Early in the year, the Council's proposed water main extensions scheme was submitted to the County Council and the Ministry of Health for approval, but this had not been obtained by the 31st December, 1947. Details of the Scheme were given in the Annual Report, 1946.



The following table shows the approximate number of dwelling-houses in the parishes and the number supplied from the Southend Waterworks Company's mains on 31st December, 1947.

PARISH	NUMBER OF HOUSES ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1947			
	In Parish (Estimated)	Supplied from Mains		Without
		Domestic	Non-Domestic	Mains Water Supply
Ashingdon ... ..	359	343	25	16
Barling Magna ... ..	292	168	12	124
Canewdon ... ..	220	180	27	40
Foulness ... ..	110	—	—	—
Great Wakering ... ..	836	763	36	73
Hawkwell ... ..	958	909	34	49
Hockley ... ..	1436	1156	66	280
Paglesham ... ..	107	No Main	No Main	107
Rochford... ..	1360	1379	49	12
	31*			
Stambridge ... ..	142	92	10	50
Sutton ... ..	61	60	9	1
TOTALS ... ..	5912	5050	268	752

\* Business premises with living accommodation

The following is a copy of the analysis of a recent sample taken from the mains.

**Chemical results in parts per Million.**

Appearance	...	Bright.
Turbidity (Silica Scale)	...	Nil.
Colour	...	Hazen (less than 10)
Odour	...	Nil
Reaction pH	...	8.5 (faint alkaline)
Free Carbon Dioxide	...	Absent
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	...	445
Total Solids, dried at 180° C.	...	300
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	40
Alkalinity as in Calcium Carbonate	...	35
Hardness : Total	...	130 Carbonate
Temporary	...	35 non-Carbonate
Permanent	...	95
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	4.8

Nitrogen in Nitrites	...	0.01 (approx.)
Free Ammonia	...	0.076
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	0.11
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 27° C.		0.85
Residual Chlorine	...	0.04 (at the time of sampling)
Metals	...	Iron : 0.05
Other Metals	...	Absent

## Bacteriological Results

No. of Colonies deveopling on Agar per c.c. or ml. in 1 day at 37° C.				0
„	„	„	„	2 days at 37° C.
„	„	„	„	3 days at 37° C.
Pres. Coliform Reaction	Present in	—Absent from 100 ml.		
Bact. Coli	Present in	—Absent from 100 ml.		
Cl. Welchii Reaction	Present in	—Absent from 100 ml.		

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and is free from metals apart from a negligible trace of iron. The reaction of the water is on the alkaline side of neutrality and its hardness and content of mineral and saline constituents in solution are very moderate. It is of satisfactory organic quality and of the highest standard of bacterial purity. The water is considered wholesome in character and suitable for public supply purposes.

Particulars of the water supplies of the remaining areas in the district not at present served by the Southend Waterworks Company are as follows :—

In the parishes of Foulness (including Havengore) the owners have provided a piped water supply to most of the dwelling houses.

The parish of Paglesham with its 107 dwelling houses has no piped water supply. Its inhabitants have to rely on shallow wells and as is well known, such sources are always liable to pollution.

The proposed water mains extensions scheme includes this parish.

## DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

There are two sewage disposal works in the District.

One of these disposal works is situated within the parish of Stambridge and deals with sewage from the parish of Rochford (including the Anne Boleyn Estate) and parts of the parishes of Ashingdon, Hawkwell and Hockley. Sewage from outside the Rural District is also treated at Stambridge, namely the area of Eastwood transferred to the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea and part of the parish of Thundersley in the Urban District of Benfleet.

The standard of the effluent from the Stambridge Disposal works into the tidal water has been uniformly high and well within the limits of purity required by the standard adopted by the Essex County Council for inland waterways. The programme for the reconditioning of the sludge beds was continued with very satisfactory results and was completed in 1945.

Additional provisions are, however, becoming necessary with regard to dealing with sludge, either by additional sludge bed area, or by sludge digestion.

The other sewage purification works which is situated within the parish of Great Wakering treats sewage from the more populous parts of that parish.

Except after heavy rains, the standard of this effluent has been uniformly high, similar to that of the Stambridge works. Rectification of the existing defects cannot properly be dealt with at the present time, but this matter which is mainly one of overloading will receive attention in due course.

*Drainage and Sewerage.*—The number of house drainage connections made to the main sewers during the year was :—

### EXISTING DWELLINGS.

<i>Parish</i>	<i>No. of</i>	<i>Connections</i>
Ashingdon ... ..	1	
Hawkwell ... ..	1	
Hockley ... ..	3	

### NEW DWELLINGS.

Hawkwell ... ..	2
Hockley ... ..	20
Rochford ... ..	3
Great Wakering ... ..	37



In connection with the Water Supplies and Sewerage Act, 1944, the Council are applying for Ministry of Health consent to provide additional main sewers to enable a number of existing communities to be soil drained to such sewers, the estimated cost of which is approximately £100,000.

The Council has decided that, wherever possible, surface water drainage would best be dealt with on the separate system and so avoid serious overloading on the soil sewerage pumping systems.

### PUBLIC CLEANSING.

All collections are dealt with by direct labour.

The following are particulars of the House Refuse and Night Soil Collection Services at the end of 1947 :—

Parish						House Refuse Bins	Night Soil Pails
Ashingdon	...	...	...	...	...	177	62
Barling Magna	...	...	...	...	...	282	142
Canewdon	...	...	...	...	...	210	130
Foulness Island	...	...	...	...	...	110	—
Hawkwell	...	...	...	...	...	666	9
Hockley ...	...	...	...	...	...	926	60
Paglesham	...	...	...	...	...	104	56
Rochford	...	...	...	...	...	1349	12
Stambridge	...	...	...	...	...	137	82
Sutton ...	...	...	...	...	...	58	8
Wakering, Great	...	...	...	...	...	829	79
Totals ...						4848	640

### NIGHT SOIL COLLECTION

This undertaking has been re-organised and as from 1st April, 1947, the collection has been carried out during the day with the new Dennis Cesspool vehicle with night soil attachment. The collection was extended to the parish of Paglesham during 1947.

### UNMADE ROADS.

The majority of these roads are impassable to motor traffic, and the residents have, for a considerable time, deposited garbage at the end of these roads.

In order to abolish these accumulations, which were a source of complaint, a holder was designed to hold up to four dustbins.



Holders have now been placed at the end of 30 roads as follows :—

HOCKLEY	ASHINGDON	HAWKWELL
Kingsway	New Park Road	Stanley Road
Hilltop Avenue	Arundel Road	Clifton Road
Burnham Road	Ellesmere Road	York Road
South Avenue	Ethelbert Road	Alexandra Road
Oakleigh Avenue		Albert Road
Ambleside Gardens		Canewdon View Road
Windermere Avenue		Golden Cross Rd. (top)
Grasmere Avenue		Lascelles Gardens
The Drive		Princess Gardens
Waxwell Road		Central Avenue
Orchard Avenue		Harewood Avenue
Beckney Avenue		Eastbury Avenue
Woodside Road		Poplar Avenue

The public have co-operated well, and the idea has proved very successful.

### REFUSE DISPOSAL.

For some time the refuse has been deposited on a brick-field, where the ash was utilised in brick making. The owner however, stopped this during October, 1947.

As a temporary measure refuse has been tipped on land situated at Tinkers Lane, Rochford, by kind permission of the Southend Waterworks Company.

It has been necessary for the Council to apply for a Compulsory Purchase Order for a piece of land at Romney Marsh, Rochford, as a House refuse site. After a public inquiry which was held on 18th February, 1948, the Ministry did not grant the Order.

The Salvage scheme, inaugurated in 1939, was continued and the following materials were salvaged and returned to industry during the year :—

					<i>Tons</i>	<i>cwts.</i>	<i>qrs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Waste Paper	...	...	...	...	30	15	—	—
Textiles	...	...	...	...	2	9	2	—
Non Ferrous Metals	...	...	...	...	1	19	1	6
Bones	...	...	...	...	1	8	1	8
Ferrous Scrap	...	...	...	...	7	5	—	—
Bottles	...	...	...	...	15	11	2	—
TOTAL ...					58	8	2	14

In addition 35½ gross jars were sold.

TOTAL VALUE : £432 16s. 0½d.

## SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The following table gives details of the inspections carried out and notices served during the year 1947 :—

Nature of Inspection	Total Inspec- tions	Notices Served	
		Informal	Formal
Housing ... ..	239	147	—
Rural Housing Survey ... ..	3357	—	—
Building Licences ... ..	30	—	—
Moveable Dwellings ... ..	52	—	—
Verminous or dirty premises ...	31	26	—
Disinfestations ... ..	7	—	—
Infectious Diseases ... ..	27	—	—
Infectious Contacts ... ..	15	—	—
Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics	30	—	—
Water Supplies ... ..	39	—	—
Drainage ... ..	135	49	—
Cesspool Nuisances ... ..	32	32	—
Bakehouses ... ..	9	1	—
Dairy Farms ... ..	47	—	—
Food premises ... ..	30	3	—
Slaughterhouses ... ..	9	—	—
Knacker's Yards ... ..	8	1	—
Rats and Mice ... ..	282	—	—
Rats and Mice (Survey) ... ..	3299	—	—
Polluted Watercourses and Ditches	12	3	—
Nuisances (miscellaneous) ...	6	2	—
Refuse Tips ... ..	56	—	—
Dust Bins ... ..	137	137	17
Petrol and Carbide Storage ...	18	—	—
Miscellaneous visits ... ..	224	—	—
Disinfections ... ..	16	—	—
Ice Cream Premises ... ..	21	—	—
Factories ... ..	19	2	—
Totals ... ..	8185	402	17

### Smoke Abatement :

No action taken during the year.

### Swimming Baths and Pools :

None in the area but the tidal rivers in the district are used for this purpose.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Seven dwellings were fumigated with sulphur and sprayed with "Zaldecide." In a number of cases of infestation by fleas, sulphur candles were supplied free of cost to householders.

**Schools :**

There are thirteen schools in the area and a number of inspections have been made in respect of drainage and sanitary accommodation.

Cesspools at 4 schools are emptied by the Council as requested by the Essex County Council.

**Movable Dwellings :**

During the year twelve licences were granted to station and use Moveable Dwellings.

The majority of these are used owing to the Housing shortage.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### (a) Milk (Special Designations).

Eight Supplementary Licences to sell milk under the (Special Designations) Orders 1936 and 1938 were issued during the year—four in respect of “Tuberculin Tested” and four in respect of “Pasteurised.”

There are fourteen producers of “Accredited” Milk and ten producers of “Tuberculin Tested” Milk in the District.

### (b) Dairies and Cowsheds.

At the end of the year there were 44 Cowkeepers and in addition 19 Retail Purveyors of Milk, making a total of 63.

Four Wholesale Purveyors were registered and one Retail Purveyor gave up business during the year.

### REGISTRATIONS OF COWKEEPERS AND PURVEYORS OF MILK IN RESPECTIVE PARISHES.

Parish	Cowkeeper's premises			Not Cow-keepers	Totals
	Wholesale Purveyors of Milk	Wholesale and Retail Purveyors	Retail Purveyors	Retail Purveyors of Milk	
Ashingdon ...	6	1	2	—	9
Canewdon ...	6	—	—	—	6
Barling Magna ...	—	1	—	—	1
Foulness ...	—	—	—	3	3
Hawkwell ...	1	—	—	1	2
Hockley ...	8	—	—	7	15
Paglesham ...	—	1	—	—	1
Rochford ...	4	1	—	6	11
Stambridge ...	2	2	—	—	4
Sutton ...	4	1	—	—	5
Wakering, Great	3	1	—	2	6
<b>Totals ...</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>63</b>



(c) **Meat and other Foods.**

Seven private Slaughterhouses and one Knackers Yard were licenced for the year but the Slaughterhouses were little used except for emergency killing and slaughtering of a limited number of pigs under the Ministry of Food Permits. There is no Government Slaughterhouse in the District.

The following foodstuffs were inspected and found unfit for human food. The Ministry of Food Salvage Department was notified in accordance with Food Salvage Regulations :—

TINNED FOODS				FRESH FOODS			
						<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
Meat	...	...	82 tins	Imported Meat	...	315	8
Milk	...	...	157 tins	Home killed Meat		429	—
Fish	...	...	12 tins	Fish	...	35	—
Vegetables	...	...	27 tins	Cheese	...	24	—
Fruit	...	...	2 tins	Grapes	...	20	—
Various	...	...	21 tins	Prunes	...	25	—
<hr/>				<hr/>			
301 tins				848 8			
<hr/>				<hr/>			

**Bakehouses :**

There are 10 bakehouses in the district. Informal action has been taken for two infringements during the year.

**Ice Cream.**

There are four manufacturers in the district. Samples submitted to the Counties Public Health Laboratories were found to be satisfactory in accordance with the Ministry of Health Provisional Grades.

In each case the manufacturer has decided to use a cold mix powder, rather than install a heat treatment plant. This powder has been in very short supply during the year.

## PETROLEUM LICENCES IN FORCE DURING 1947

Name of Licensee	Parish	Storage in Gallons
Hewego Bros. ... ..	Barling Magna	250
Murrell, H. S. G. ... ..	"	500
Great Wakering Brick Co. Ltd.	"	1,250
Canewdon Farm Ltd. ... ..	Canewdon	500
Ayres, E. ... ..	Hawkwell	500
Hooker, G. E. ... ..	"	500
Gregory, E. ... ..	"	500
Baker, E. J. ... ..	Hockley	250
L.N.E. Railway ... ..	"	100
Morling, W. V. ... ..	"	1,000
Potter, I. G. ... ..	"	500
Withers, S. G. ... ..	"	500
Cottis & Sons ... ..	Rochford	1,000
Davey & Armitage Ltd. ... ..	"	500
Hurst, F. J. & Sons ... ..	"	500
Milton Hall Brick Co., Ltd. ... ..	"	100
Rochford R.D.C. ... ..	"	500
Roughton, W. P. ... ..	"	500
Southend-on-Sea Corporation ... ..	"	10,000
Squier, A. W. Ltd. ... ..	"	50 (cellulose)
Warren, C. & F. Ltd. ... ..	"	500
Whittingham, W. H. & Sons, Ltd.	"	2,500
Rankin, A. M. & H. Ltd. ... ..	"	2,000
Smith, Mrs. D. ... ..	Stambridge	500
Steel, A. ... ..	"	500
Great Wakering Engineering Co.	Sutton	500
Church, J. ... ..	Great Wakering	500
Rayner, C. ... ..	"	500
Total ... ..		27,500

Total number of licences in force in 1947	...	29.
---	-----	-----

## Carbide of Calcium Licences.

One licence to store Carbide of Calcium was issued during the year as follows.

<i>Name of Licensee</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>Storage in Cwts.</i>
Alp, W.           ...	Great Wakering ...	5

## HOUSING.

The following table gives details of the housing work carried out during the year.

Number of new houses erected during the year		
By the Council	... ..	36
By private enterprise	... ..	49
1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—		
(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ..	226
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	239
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 ... ..	10
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose ... ..	16
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	6
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	127
2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices : —		
	Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	73
3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—		
(A)—Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—		
(1)	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :	
	By owners ... ..	Nil

(B)—Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... Nil

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(a) By owners ... Nil

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners Nil

(C)—Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(a) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... 2

(b) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... 1

TABLE SHOWING POPULATION AND NUMBER OF HOUSES AT CENSUS 1931, AND THE NUMBER AT THE END OF DECEMBER, 1947.

Parish	Area in statute acres (land and inland water)	Census, 1931		Number of Houses at end of 1947	
		Houses	Population	Gross	With £20 and under Rateable Value
Ashingdon ...	2513	274	786	359	322
Barling Magna...	3435	231	800	292	273
Canewdon ...	6801	188	634	220	210
Foulness ...	7123	112	426	110	104
Great Wakering	2542	780	2498	836	755
Hawkwell ...	1361	600	1744	958	888
Hockley ...	3643	820	2016	1436	1192
Paglesham ...	1867	105	311	107	96
Rochford ...	3023	939	3968	1391	1121
Stambridge ...	2231	140	549	142	127
Sutton ...	1541	61	237	61	53
Totals ...	36080	4250	13969	5912	5141



## **RURAL HOUSING SURVEY.**

*(Under the Ministry of Health Circular 64/44)*

based on the

### **THIRD REPORT OF THE RURAL HOUSING SUB-COMMITTEE OF THE CENTRAL HOUSING ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The Rural Housing Survey in this District was completed in December, 1947. It had been initiated to provide a record of the condition of every working class house in the District as a basis for a programme of improvement of rural housing conditions to be carried out over a period of years. The Survey was commenced in March, 1946, and occupied the whole time of one temporary assistant. All dwellings having a rateable value of £20 or less have been visited, the total number of these dwellings being 5,344.

The categories in which these houses are classified are as follows :—

1. Satisfactory in all respects.
2. Minor defects.
3. Requiring repair, structural alteration or improvement.
4. Appropriate for reconditioning under the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts.
5. Unfit for habitation and beyond repair at reasonable cost.

One of the objects of the Survey was to enable local authorities to draw up a long term programme of reconditioning work. The present shortage of building labour and materials, and the need for concentration on new houses has not allowed this to be put into effect. A considerable amount of "follow up" work and detailed inspection by the Sanitary Inspector will be necessary.

It will be observed from the following table that 3,084 properties, or nearly 58 per cent of the total visited, have been placed in either category 1 or 2. Little or no action will be necessary in regard to these properties, which consist mainly of houses owned by the local authority and those built by private enterprise in the decade before the war. A number of these

latter properties are of the owner occupier type. The remaining 2,260 properties will need further consideration, and the Sanitary Inspector has now commenced to inspect those houses placed in category 5, with a view to dealing with the most serious cases.

It should be added that the properties shown in category 4 could have been placed in one of the other categories, in the main, category 3, and provision has been made to put this into effect. This action has been taken because owners are at present unable to take advantage of the Housing (Rural Workers) Acts, which have now lapsed.

## HOUSING SURVEY OF HOUSES OF £20 AND UNDER RATEABLE VALUE, EXCLUSIVE OF COUNCIL HOUSES

Parish	1 Fit	2 Minor Defects	3 Requ'ing Repair, etc.	4 Recon- dition	5 Unfit	Total Houses Surveyed
Ashingdon (including South Fambridge ... ..)	36	150	74	—	8	268
Barling (including Little Wakering)	1	55	51	—	8	115
Canewdon ...	1	28	40	—	37	106
Foulness and Havengore ...	9	45	75	—	14	143
Hawkwell ...	8	104	99	12	6	229
Hockley ...	—	50	57	—	2	109
Paglesham ...	364	374	142	—	15	895
Rochford ...	245	443	376	—	125	1,189
Stambridge ...	2	28	54	2	15	101
Sutton ...	237	550	331	—	103	1,221
Great Wakering...	2	58	50	—	25	135
	4	7	42	—	—	53
Totals ...	104	179	427	—	70	780
	1,013	2,071	1,818	14	428	5,344

## **PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.**

### **Infectious Diseases Generally.**

During the year 204 cases of infectious diseases (exclusive of Tuberculosis) were notified as compared with 285 during 1946.

In the tables on pages 31 and 32 cases of infectious diseases are classified according to age, disease and locality.

The immunisation of children against Diphtheria was continued during the year. The prophylactic used throughout was A.P.T. (Alum Precipitated Toxoid) and for boosting, T.A.F. (Toxoid-Antitoxin Floccules). The tables on pages 33 and 34 show the position at the end of 1947 and the number of Diphtheria notifications and deaths in relation to Immunisation.

A number of contacts of Smallpox arrived in the District and were kept under observation until the period of incubation was passed. None of these contacts contracted the Disease.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

### New Cases and Mortality during 1947.

During the year 4 deaths were registered as due to Tuberculosis—3 Pulmonary and 1 Non-Pulmonary.

The following table shows the numbers of new cases of Tuberculosis and of deaths from this disease in the area during 1947, classified according to age and sex:—

Age			*New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	...	...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—10	...	...	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
10—15	...	...	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	...	...	1	4	—	—	—	—	—	—
20—25	...	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	...	...	—	4	1	2	—	1	—	—
35—45	...	...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	...	...	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55—65	...	...	2	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
65 and over	...	...	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1
TOTALS	...	...	9	12	4	3	2	1	—	1

\*Not including cases of Tuberculosis removed into the district during the year which had been previously notified elsewhere.



NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1947 (EXCLUSIVE OF TUBERCULOSIS)

Notifiable Disease	Total Cases Notified	Under 1	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	1
Cerebro Spinal Meningitis ...	4	—	1	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	4	—
Diphtheria ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Erysipelas ...	9	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	4	1	—	—
Infective Hepatitis ...	4	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	—	—	1	—	—	—
Measles ...	113	4	8	6	13	16	59	4	1	1	1	—	—	4	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	11	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	4	1	1	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	26	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	18	6	—	—	25	—
Scarlet Fever ...	13	—	—	1	—	—	5	5	1	1	—	—	—	3	—
Whooping Cough ...	19	2	—	2	5	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
<b>TOTALS</b> ...	<b>204</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>2</b>

Table Shewing Local Distribution of Cases Notified During 1947.

PARISH	Anterior Polomyelitis	Cerebro-Spinal Meningitis	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Infective Hepatitis	Measles	Optalmia Neonatorium	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Scarlet Fever	Whooping Cough	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Totals
Ashington	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	6
Barling Magna...	—	—	—	1	—	3	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	7
Canewdon	—	—	—	—	1	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18
Foulness	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4
Hawkwell	—	—	—	—	—	9	—	3	—	2	1	1	—	16
Hockley ...	—	—	1	2	—	21	—	1	—	1	7	4	2	39
Paglesham	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2
Rochford	3	4	—	1	—	24	—	2	25	6	9	8	4	86
Stambridge	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2
Sutton ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wakering, Great	—	—	—	5	2	33	—	3	—	2	1	5	—	52
TOTALS	3	4	1	9	4	113	1	11	25	13	19	21	7	232

Diphtheria Notifications and Deaths in relation to immunisation.

NOTIFICATIONS			DEATHS		
Age at date of Notification	Number of Cases Notified	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation	Age at date Death	Number of Deaths	Number of cases included in preceding column in which the child had completed a full course of immunisation
Under 1			Under 1	—	—
1			1	—	—
2			2	—	—
3			3	—	—
4			4	—	—
5 to 9	1	*1	5 to 9	—	—
10 to 14			10 to 14	—	—
Totals	1	*1	Totals	Nil	Nil

\* Did not receive a "Boosting" Injection.

# IMMUNISATION IN RELATION TO CHILD POPULATION

	Number of children who had completed a full course of immunisation at any time up to 31st December, 1947.							
	Under 1 1947	1 1946	2 1945	3 1944	4 1943	5 to 9 1938-1942	10 to 14 1933-1937	Total under 15
Age at 31.12.47 i.e. Born in year ...								
Number of children im- munised ... ..	11	139	145	185	178	1091	914	2591
Number of births regis- tered ... ..	—	317	264	275	280	1044	1122	—
Estimated Mid-year popu- lation 1947 ... ..			1530			2430		
Percentage Immunised ...			43%			91%		



**NUMBER AND TYPE OF HOUSES OWNED BY THE  
DISTRICT COUNCIL AT END OF 1947.**

PARISH				Number of Non- Parlour Type	Number of Parlour Type	Totals
Ashingdon	...	...	...	—	—	—
Barling Magna	...	...	...	16	—	16
Canewdon	...	...	...	43	6	49
Foulness	...	...	...	—	—	—
Hawkwell	...	...	...	—	—	—
Hockley	...	...	...	—	2	2
Paglesham	...	...	...	12	—	12
Rochford	...	...	...	92	58	150
Stambridge	...	...	...	28	—	28
Sutton	...	...	...	—	—	—
Great Wakering	...	...	...	106	30	136
Totals				297	96	393

Includes Agricultural Cottages (Parlour type Canewdon 6, Hockley 2, Great Wakering 2) and 3 cottage non-parlour in Canewdon (purchased by Council).

Small Bungalows for aged persons (Rochford 8, Great Wakering 8) and ordinary Bungalows (Canewdon 6.)

## ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1937

1. **Inspections** for the purposes of provisions as to health, including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

Premises	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	10	14	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	40	5	1	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises) ...	2	—	—	—
Total ...	52	19	1	—

### 2. Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number in which defects were found				Number of cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
	Found	Reme'd	Referred to H.M. Inspector	Referred by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1.)	2	2	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature (S.3) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective Drainage of Floors (S.6.) ...	—	—	—	2	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) { Insufficient Unsuitable or Defective Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other Offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2	—	2	—

## **A REVIEW OF SOME OF THE ASPECTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE RURAL DISTRICT OF ROCHFORD.**

This Review is compiled from the Minutes of Meetings dating back to 1872, and from Annual Reports of various Medical Officers of Health who served the District since the passing of the Public Health Act in 1872, when the Rural Sanitary Authority was first formed.

The District, which is situated in the south-east portion of the County of Essex, is roughly oblong in shape. A large proportion of the adult population is engaged in agriculture, and, owing to the railway facilities, an increasing number of people engaged in business in Greater London reside in the District. The population in 1947, was estimated to be 17,480.

The District is bounded on the north by the River Crouch ; on the east by the North Sea facing the Maplin Sands ; on the south (from east to west) by the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea, and on the west by the Urban Districts of Benfleet and Rayleigh.

There are 36,080 acres in the District, including land and inland water, and running from west to east, there are two elevated ridges which gradually fade into the flat lands in the eastern half of the District. These two ridges form watershed areas :—in the north drained by the River Crouch, and between the two ridges, drained by the River Roach.

There are no important rivers actually in the area—on the north there is the River Crouch, and flowing through Rochford, the smaller River Roach—both tidal rivers.

The whole District is on London Clay, the eastern area being intersected by creeks forming a number of small islands, notably Foulness and Wallasea on the north-east.

The area of the District has been considerably altered from time to time. The District at the 1911 census, had an area of 55,386 acres (including land and inland waters), but during 1913, the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea was extended to include 383 acres in the parish of Eastwood. The parish of Canvey Island, during 1925, made application for Urban powers which were granted as from 1st April, 1926, and at that date severed its connection with the Rural District and thus reduced the area by 4,351 acres. From the 1st October, 1929, due to the creation of two new Urban Districts, Benfleet and Rayleigh, the District lost a further 12,000 acres.



As from the 1st April, 1936, the following alterations in the area of the Rochford Rural District took place, as the result of the Essex County Review Order of 1935 (under the 1929 Act) :—

<i>Transferred to</i>				<i>Transferred from</i>		<i>Acreage transferred</i>
County Borough of Southend-on-Sea				Eastwood	...	1,342
" " "				North Shoebury	...	499
" " "				Great Wakering	...	156
" " "				Shopland	...	201
Rayleigh Urban District			...	Eastwood	...	72
" " "			...	Rochford	...	11
Benfleet Urban District			...	Rochford	...	5
Chelmsford Rural District			...	Hockley	...	274
Total						2,560
Transferred from the Maldon Rural District to Canewdon						175
Nett loss to the Rochford Rural District						2,385 acres

These transfers resulted in the reduction of the area from 38,465 acres to 36,080 acres. The remaining area of the parish of North Shoebury (593 acres) was added to Great Wakering, Shopland (847 acres), to Sutton, Eastwood (1,116 acres), to Rochford (namely, the remaining portion of Eastwood excepting the detached part on Wallasea Island), and the parishes of Great and Little Stambridge amalgamated to form the parish of Stambridge.

Re-arrangement of the parishes as the result of the County of Essex (Rural Parishes) Confirmation Order, 1946, came into operation on the 1st April, 1946. By this Order the following transfers took place :—

<i>Parish transferred from</i>				<i>Acreage transferred</i>	<i>Parish transferred to</i>
South Fambridge				1,191	Ashingdon
Stambridge (detached area adjoining Ashingdon)				156	Ashingdon
Eastwood (detached area on Wallasea Island)				238	Canewdon
Stambridge (detached area on Wallasea Island)				666.4	Canewdon
Little Wakering (detached area on Wallasea Island)				155.8	Canewdon



<i>Parish transferred from</i>	<i>Acreage transferred</i>	<i>Parish transferred to</i>
Paglesham (area north of Paglesham Creek) ... ..	336	Canewdon
Hockley (detached area adjoining Paglesham) ... ..	174	Paglesham
Havengore ... ..	296	Foulness
Little Wakering (area south-east of Middleway) ... ..	745	Foulness
Little Wakering (small area) ...	106	Great Wakering
Barling ... ..	1,285	Barling Magna*
Great Wakering (detached areas Nos. 1 and 2) ... ..	712	Barling Magna*
Little Wakering ... ..	1,006	Barling Magna*
Great Wakering (small area) ...	52.6	Barling Magna*

These alterations left the approximate area of each parish as follows :—

<i>Parish</i>	<i>Area in acres</i>
Ashingdon ... ..	2,513
Barling Magna* ... ..	3,435
Canewdon ... ..	6,801
Foulness ... ..	7,123
Hawkwell ... ..	1,361
Hockley ... ..	3,643
Paglesham ... ..	1,867
Rochford ... ..	3,023
Stambridge ... ..	2,231
Sutton ... ..	1,541
Great Wakering ... ..	2,542

Total (including land and inland water)	<u>36,080 acres</u>
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\* New Parish.

The transfer of parts of the District to other areas did not appear to be opposed by the District Council of the day, but was actually encouraged. For example, in 1877, when Southend-on-Sea proposed to extend its boundary to include part of the parish of Eastwood, the Council suggested that the village of Prittlewell should also be included. Again in 1894, when the formation of a Local Government unit for South Shoebury parish was considered, the District Council encouraged such severance.

It does suggest that these growing areas were looked upon as liabilities.

Prior to the Public Health Act of 1848, there was no systematic legislation in force, although there had been isolated efforts such as the Knackers Act of 1786, and action in this field had largely depended on the efforts of individual towns.

In 1831 and 1847, there were serious outbreaks of cholera throughout the country which hastened national action, and in 1847, the Towns Improvement Clauses Act was passed. In 1854, numerous cases of cholera occurred throughout the area of the Rochford Rural District, and in one month alone, as many as 42 persons died of the disease.

The Public Health Act of 1848, was mainly based on Local Acts, and provided for the formation of a General Board of Health with extensive sanitary powers, and containing special provisions, some of which were submitted by Improvement Commissioners and local authorities since the beginning of the century, and others of which had been hastened through to deal with the pressing problem of the cholera epidemic.

A new Act passed in 1854, renewed the Public Health Act of 1848, on an annual basis; and in 1858, the functions of the General Board of Health were, by the Public Health Act of 1858, divided between the Home Office and the Privy Council acting through the Board of Trade.

The transfer of these powers from the Home Office and the Privy Council to the Board (now Ministry of Health), under the provisions of the Local Government Act of 1871, was followed by the Public Health Act, 1872, which was indeed the first real effort for dealing with Public Health matters.

The first meeting of the Rochford Rural Sanitary Authority was held in Rochford on 27th August, 1872, the first chairman appointed being Major A. Tawke. He was succeeded in 1884, by Mr. J. Baker who remained in office until 1886, when Mr. W. T. Meeson was appointed. Mr. Meeson's successors were:—Mr. C. A. Tabor, 1888 to 1894, Mr. S. S. Baker, 1894 to 1895 when the Rochford Rural District Council was constituted. Mr. Baker was appointed its first chairman and continued in office until 1910. His successors were:—Mr. A. Stallibrass, 1910 to 1922, Mr. W. Bentall, 1922 to 1927, Mr. H. Rankin, 1927 to 1944. The present chairman, Mr. G. Milbourn was appointed in that year.

The first Clerk to the Authority formed in 1872, was Mr. W. Gregson (Senior), who continued in office until, in 1873, he was succeeded by Mr. W. Gregson (Junior). His successors were:—Mr. F. Gregson, 1890 to 1915, Mr. W. Harding-Roberts,



1915 to 1930, Mr. E. A. Hawkins, 1930 to 1933. Your present Clerk, Mr. S. C. Harris, took office on the 1st January, 1934.

The Authority appeared reluctant to appoint a Medical Officer of Health, and only did so after a great deal of pressure by the Local Government Board. The first Medical Officer of Health, Dr. E. E. Phillips, who was a local general practitioner, was appointed part-time at a salary of £50 per annum (inclusive of travelling), and, in 1882, a notice was given to reduce his salary, but this motion was subsequently withdrawn. In 1891, he was succeeded by Dr. G. D. Deeping who was also in general practice and acted as part-time Medical Officer of Health until 1896, when he was succeeded by another general practitioner, Dr. R. Young, who also held the office part-time until 1903, when Dr. F. D. Grayson was appointed part-time. His successor was Dr. M. H. Roper who also served in a part-time capacity, and he remained in office until your present Medical Officer of Health, Dr. J. F. Macdonald was appointed in 1914 to serve the Rural Districts of Rochford, Chelmsford and Maldon as the South East Essex (United) Sanitary Districts.

When in 1873, the appointment of a Sanitary Inspector (then known as Inspector of Nuisances) was under consideration, the Authority proposed that each police constable should act in his respective area as Sanitary Inspector, but the sanction of such an arrangement was refused by the Home Office.

The first Sanitary Inspector, Mr. C. Jubb, was appointed in 1873, and continued in office until, in 1888, he was succeeded by Mr. C. E. Jubb. He was succeeded by Mr. A. C. Madge in 1911. Mr. Madge remained in office as Sanitary Inspector until 1923, when he was appointed Surveyor to the Council. Successive Sanitary Inspectors were :—Mr. B. G. Ellis, 1923 to 1942, Mr. A. W. Yearsley, 1942 to 1945, Mr. J. H. Riley, 1945 to 1946. Your present Sanitary Inspector, Mr. H. Jepson, was appointed in 1947.

The first surveyor to the District Council, Mr. E. Wright, was appointed as a part-time officer in 1892, and continued in office until 1895. In that year, Mr. T. C. Lofthouse was appointed, his duties including those of Sanitary Surveyor and Highway Surveyor. Mr. Lofthouse continued in office for only part of that year, his successor being Mr. A. F. Stilwell as Highway and Sanitary Surveyor. He continued in office until 1901, his successors being :—Mr. H. T. Sidwell, 1901 to 1923, Mr. A. C. Madge, 1923 to 1941. Your present Engineer and Surveyor, Mr. A. N. Box, was appointed in 1942.

As from 1st April, 1930, the County Council became the authority for the control of Highways.

Mr. R. D. Lynn was appointed Chief Financial Officer in 1946, prior to that date this appointment was combined with that of Clerk to the Council.

Mr. J. A. Robinson was appointed Valuation Officer in 1946. Prior to that date this appointment was also combined with that of Clerk to the Council, although Mr. Robinson had assisted the Clerk in those duties since 1927.

The duties of the Estates Management is combined with those of the Surveyor, Mr. Box, who is also the Town Planning Officer.

### **Office Accommodation.**

Prior to 1930, the staff was dispersed in a number of rented offices. In that year, all the staff were transferred to the present offices at Old Court House, Rochford. Owing to the limited accommodation, the Sanitary Inspector's, Fuel and Valuation Offices, were transferred in 1947, to South Street, Rochford. The Council Chamber at Old Court, has been utilised since April, 1930, for the meetings of the Council and Committees. Prior to that date, the Council held its meetings at the Institution, Rochford.

### **Vital Statistics.**

The first census was taken in 1801. The following table gives the populations at that and each subsequent census based on the existing area of the District.

In 1801	the population was	5,257
„ 1811	„ „ „	5,706
„ 1821	„ „ „	6,513
„ 1831	„ „ „	6,925
„ 1841	„ „ „	7,411
„ 1851	„ „ „	7,398
„ 1861	„ „ „	7,439
„ 1871	„ „ „	7,599
„ 1881	„ „ „	7,543
„ 1891	„ „ „	7,795
„ 1901	„ „ „	8,235
„ 1911	„ „ „	8,817
„ 1921	„ „ „	9,940
„ 1931	„ „ „	13,969
„ 1941	„ „ „	15,280 (estimated)

The present population is estimated to be 17,480.



From the above table it is seen that the population has shown a gradual increase, with the exception of slight falls at the census of 1851 and that of 1881.

Birth rates are available as far back as 1897, and the following table sets them out in five yearly periods from that date. The table shows that in the year 1897, the birth rate was 31.8 per thousand of population, declining gradually until in 1917, it was 15.1. In 1922, the birth rate was 19.5 and has gradually declined until, in 1943, the birth rate was 12.6 per thousand of population.

In recent years it has again increased, and in 1947 was 21.1.

**Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Period 1897-194**

Year			Number of Births and Deaths per 1,000 of Population		Number of Deaths of Infants under 1 year per 1,000 Births
			Birth Rate	Death Rate	Infantile Mortality
1897	...	...	31.8	14.7	110.5
1902	...	...	27.1	15.8	72.4
1907	...	...	25.1	15.1	64.5
1912	...	...	20.7	12.8	59.9
1917	...	...	15.1	13.9	69.4
1922	...	...	19.5	11.0	53
1927	...	...	18.0	11.7	45
1932	...	...	16.2	10.8	49
1937	...	...	12.6	11.1	86
1942	...	...	16.7	14.7	64
1947	...	...	21.1	14.9	26

The death rates since 1897 have fluctuated. In 1897, the rate was 14.7 per thousand of population compared with 15.8 in 1902. The rate decreased again in 1907, when it was 15.1, and in 1917, it had fallen to 13.9. In 1922, it decreased sharply to 11.0. In 1927, the figure had remained fairly constant, but in 1932, it had fallen to 10.8. In 1937, the death rate was 11.1 per thousand of population, and in 1942, had risen to 14.7.

The death rate for 1947 was 14.5.

The effect of a declining birth rate is an increase in the proportion of older persons in the population, and a decline in the number in the younger groups. This is shown in the following table :—

Census	Percentage of the Population under 20 years of age	Percentage of the Population under 40 years of age	Percentage of the Population over 65 years of age
1881	47.22	74.68	5.1
1901	42.2	74.8	6.8
1911	39.23	67.98	7.4
1921	35.85	63.5	9.0
1931	32.64	61.5	9.6

The number of persons per family has shown a steady decrease, for example :—

At the 1911 census the average number of persons per family was	4.22
„ „ 1921 „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	4.07
„ „ 1931 „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „ „	3.69

The chief occupation in the District is still agriculture. The male working population in this and associated occupations at the 1921 census was 31 per cent total working male population, and in 1931, 26 per cent. This latter figure is still a substantial proportion of the male working population.

On the other hand, commercial and financial occupations (which are the second highest occupational groups of the population of the District) showed an increase—from 10 per cent at the 1921 census, to 12 per cent of the male working population at the census of 1931.

In latter years, there has been an increase in the population of older persons, and this in itself would have an adverse effect on the death rate.

**Infectious Diseases.**

With regard to infectious diseases, Sanitary Authorities had been granted powers by the Public Health Act of 1875, for controlling the spread of infectious diseases. These powers mainly consisted of the removal of infected persons to hospital, disinfection of premises and the destruction of infected bedding, etc. At that time, infectious diseases were not notifiable. Under the Infectious Diseases (Notification) Act of 1889, Sanitary Authorities could, by passing a resolution, make the notification of certain infectious diseases applicable to their district. The Rochford Council of that day decided not to use these powers at first, but this decision was reversed a year later (1890), as the result of a case in which a medical practitioner on being asked why he had not notified that some of his patients were suffering from certain infectious diseases, pointed out that he was under no legal obligation to do so.

Details of certain diseases are available from the year 1901, but owing to the considerable alterations of acreage occurring in the area between 1901 and 1930, it is not possible to give an an accurate comparison of deaths from certain diseases. The following table gives particulars of deaths from various infectious diseases from 1931 to 1947,

			Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Typhoid Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms of Tuberculosis	Puerperal Fever	Measles	Whooping Cough	Influenza	Cancer	Heart Disease	Pneumonia (all forms)
1931	...	...	—	2	1	10	1	—	1	1	4	20	56	13
1932	...	...	1	1	—	7	4	—	3	2	11	25	47	5
1933	...	...	1	1	—	8	7	—	—	—	13	33	37	19
1934	...	...	1	3	—	6	3	—	2	2	2	20	53	14
1935	...	...	—	2	—	4	1	—	—	—	4	26	53	7
1936	...	...	—	—	—	3	2	—	1	—	2	29	35	10
1937	...	...	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	8	30	59	9
1938	...	...	—	3	—	8	—	—	1	—	1	17	58	4
1939	...	...	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	3	25	54	7
1940	...	...	—	—	—	11	3	—	—	—	3	29	55	12
1941	...	...	—	3	—	7	2	—	1	1	4	30	54	5
1942	...	...	—	1	1	2	—	1	—	1	1	34	68	11
1943	...	...	1	1	—	10	1	—	1	—	6	34	58	16
1944	...	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	31	68	5
1945	...	...	—	—	—	4	2	—	—	1	3	51	43	7
1946	...	...	—	—	—	7	2	—	—	—	2	41	66	14
1947	...	...	—	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	42	87	23



The number of deaths from Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough and Measles have been small in the past sixteen years, a position no doubt largely due to the considerable interest shown by the public with regard to health matters. Deaths from Diphtheria have also been low. The co-operation of parents and Health Authorities coupled with increased facilities for combating the disease have proved to be vital factors in the decrease. The increase in the number of deaths attributed to Cancer is probably due to the fact that improved facilities, such as the use of X-rays are now available for diagnosing the disease.

Since 1872, Smallpox has occurred in the District on no less than fourteen occasions, and involved ninety persons. Of these, no fewer than forty-two, resulting in six deaths, came under observation in 1902.

The following table gives various infectious diseases notified from 1919 until 1947.

		Scarlet Fever	Diphtheria	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Other Forms of T.B.	Polio-myelitis	Encephalitis
1919-1923	...	134	41	3	3	49	16	—	—
1924-1928	...	99	61	6	10	71	34	1	7
1929-1933	...	286	116	5	12	63	21	2	1
1934-1938	...	148	128	—	8	38	18	3	1
1939-1943	...	98	51	2	10	54	18	3	—
1944-1947	...	114	9	1	87	61	16	3	—

The above figures do not include those of the parishes which were transferred from the District before 1929.

From the two previous tables it will be seen that the proportion of deaths is not high in relation to the number of cases notified, and both figures show a steady decline.

### **Hospital Accommodation for Infectious Diseases.**

Hospitals were originally houses for pilgrims and strangers, and were conducted by members of Religious Orders. Hospital-ity, not cure of disease, was the dominant idea of their promoters. At this period of the world's history, nobody supposed that a sick person would be better off anywhere than in his own home. In this connection, certain pilgrims who took ill on their journeys



were housed in these hostels, and finally an infirmary became a necessary part of the institution. All the time the idea was essentially charitable, and the expenses of the good work were met by the alms of the faithful. In time of plague or other epidemic the hospitals were probably used as places of detention for persons who might be a danger to the community. It became the rule that if any member of the Religious Order was skilled in medicine, he should attend the patients. If no such person was available, the nearest physician might be called in to attend.

This was the beginning of the modern hospital, and most famous hospitals throughout the country were founded thus. A few beds in a healthy house, perhaps a nurse or two, and an occasional visit from a doctor constituted the idea of hospital treatment up to a century ago. Now all the resources of modern architecture are lavished on the buildings, some containing the most elaborate bacteriological, radiological and pathological laboratories.

In 1872, the Rochford Board of Guardians erected a temporary hospital in South Shoebury, which was at that time in the Rural District, but this hospital proved to be unsatisfactory and was little used.

In 1878, a cottage known as Swaines Cottage, situated in the parish of Hawkwell was adapted for the accommodation of Smallpox cases as well as ordinary cases of infectious disease. Shortly afterwards, Smallpox cases were isolated in a tent in the grounds of the hospital.

During 1889, after complaints had been received regarding the hospital and its staff, a committee presented the following report :—

“ The premises have neither been arranged or fitted for the purpose of a hospital, and in their present state are not only inadequate, but unsuitable for that purpose. That there appeared to be no proper arrangement or supervision of either the premises or staff of attendants. That the staff of attendants is inadequate and are totally unfitted and incapable of the duties they have to carry out, being three in number, *viz.*, two females and one male, one of the former being a cripple having the use of one hand and arm only, and the other being an imbecile. The male attendant is very aged and infirm.” After due consideration, new appointments were made.

In 1891, it was decided to erect an Isolation Hospital near Sutton Ford, Eastwood, but this hospital was not completed until the end of 1901, the first patient being admitted in 1902. From that date, the old hospital (Swaines Cottage), was utilised

for Smallpox cases only. In 1904, the District Council purchased five acres of land at Noble Green, Eastwood, for the erection of a Smallpox hospital, and on its completion, the use of Swaines Cottage was discontinued.

On the 1st April, 1939, the South Essex Joint Hospital Board was formed, and from that date ordinary cases of infectious disease were admitted to Billericay Isolation Hospital. As the result of this new procedure, Sutton Ford Hospital closed down, but was taken over from the District Council by the newly formed Board.

Under an agreement made in 1936, between the Essex County Council and the Borough of Colchester, a Smallpox Hospital in the Borough of Colchester was made available for cases of Smallpox occurring in the Rochford Rural District. From that date, the hospital at Noble Green was closed down, and in 1945 the building was removed and the land subsequently sold.

### **Ambulance.**

Prior to 1880, there was no ambulance for conveying a person suffering from an infectious disease to the Isolation Hospital, this being undertaken by hiring a conveyance. In that year, a second-hand large horse Brougham was purchased for the sum of £8. Since that time, each subsequent vehicle was an improvement on its predecessor, until ultimately a modern motor ambulance was provided.

### **Health Visitor.**

In November, 1916, the Council appointed a Health Visitor, but this service was transferred at the end of 1920 to the Essex County Council.

### **Water Supplies of the District.**

Prior to 1900, the water supply throughout the District was obtained mainly from private shallow wells, streams, ponds, springs and rainwater. In that year, the District Council sank a deep well in South Benfleet (which was at that time part of the Rural District), and by August, 1903, mains were laid to supply houses mainly in the parishes of South Benfleet, Hadleigh, Rayleigh, Hockley, Hawkwell and Rochford.

The scheme, then known as the "Western District Water Scheme," was originally intended to supply water to houses in the parishes of South Benfleet, Hadleigh, Rayleigh, Hockley, Hawkwell and Rochford, but in 1901 and 1906, extensions were undertaken to other parishes.



During 1914, this scheme was taken over by the Southend Waterworks Company, and since that year, water has been supplied to these parishes by that Company. In July, 1905, the Local Government Board held an inquiry relating to an application made by the Council for the supply of water to the parish of Great Wakering from the mains of the Southend Waterworks Company. This was approved, and by the end of 1906, water was supplied from the Company's mains by means of standpipes. During 1912, the Great Wakering supply was transferred to the Southend Waterworks Company and standpipes were replaced by a Service Pipe Supply to individual houses by 31st March, 1934.

At the present time, with the exception of Foulness (including Havengore), all the water mains in the District are owned by The Southend Waterworks Company. To increase their supply still further the Company promoted a Bill in Parliament for abstracting water from the Rivers Chelmer and Blackwater. This was authorised by the "Southend Waterworks Act, 1924." From time to time, the service mains of the Company have been extended.

(a) On the Company's own initiative.

(b) Under contract with the District Council, who guarantee an income from water rates as a result of the extension, up to an agreed sum, for three consecutive years. Under (b) a number of extensions were carried out, notably an extension of the mains to supply the former parish of Rawreth in 1923, and Canewdon in 1924. Prior to this, these parishes were without an adequate water supply, and the water was bought from a water cart at so much per pail.

In the parishes of Foulness (including Havengore), the owners have provided a piped water supply to most of the dwelling houses, but the parish of Paglesham has no piped water supply, its inhabitants having to rely on shallow wells. In 1946, a survey of the District was completed to enable the Council to prepare its programme for the proposed extensions of water mains, this programme being subject to the approval of the Ministry of Health and County Council. The proposed scheme will provide for the extensions of water mains in the parishes of Ashingdon (including Fambridge), Barling (including Little Wakering), Hawkwell, Hockley, Paglesham, Rochford and Great Wakering, and will require the provision of 14 miles, 1,184 yards of main to supply 308 houses.

## **Drainage and Sewerage.**

Prior to 1916, there were no public sewers in any part of the District with the exception of Rochford, this parish being served by a most unsatisfactory system of sewerage. The works which were situated near the River Roach, consisted of a chamber in which the sewage was treated by the Alumino Ferric process, and then run into a sedimentation chamber where the sediment settled. The liquid was then run through a series of flint filter beds, and thence to the River Roach. The effluent was not of a satisfactory degree of purity and the filter beds were liable to be flooded at high tides. At South Benfleet, part of the sewage was treated by Alumino Ferric blocks which had to be frequently renewed. The effluent then ran into the creek, the amount of purification not being very great.

In 1916, a modern works was completed at Rochford, and 5,729 yards of sewers laid which have been extended from time to time. In 1930, work for the provision of additional sewers to serve this parish together with the parishes of Ashingdon, Hawkwell and Hockley were commenced, an approximate length of 12 miles of sewers being laid. The whole of the sewers gravitate to the existing outfalls at Rochford. With the approval of the Ministry of Health, the purification works at Rochford were transferred to a new site at Stambridge, the continuous flow sedimentation tanks being converted to deal with the increased volume of sewage. New Pump Wells and Pump Chambers were also constructed, and a fully automatic set of pumps driven by electricity were installed.

The sewage disposal works at Stambridge were designed to deal with the sewage from a population of 20,000 with a water consumption of 25 gallons per head per day, the works consisting of Balancing Tanks in duplicate, Continuous Flow Settlement Tanks which are in triplicate, four circular Percolating Filters and three Humus Tanks. The effluent is discharged into the tidal waters of the River Roach, and provision is also made by means of valves, to distribute effluent on to land if so desired by the owners. The sludge is dried on under-drained clinker beds, and the drainings from the beds are pumped back into the works for purification. A small pumping station is also provided for pumping the sludge which cannot be discharged by gravity, and for pumping the sludge drainings back into the Settlement Tanks. The total length of the sewers draining to the main outfall at Rochford is approximately 21 miles, laid at self-cleansing gradients, and provided with the necessary manholes and ventilation shafts. The total cost of these two schemes was £151,077.



A subsidiary pumping station for the purpose of serving South Rochford is situated at Sutton Road, in the parish of Rochford. This station is capable of dealing with a population of 2,000.

In 1931, a scheme for the disposal of sewage to serve the parish of Great Wakering was commenced, the length of sewers laid being approximately 5 miles. All sewers gravitate to the pumping station, and the sewage is pumped to the Purification Works for treatment. The power units which were Diesel engines, have now been replaced by an electricity plant. The works, designed for a population of 2,500, consist of Detritus Tanks, Continuous Flow Settlement Tanks, Percolating Filters, Humus Tank and Storm Water Tanks.

In 1933, a scheme for the sewerage of the parish of Eastwood was carried out, and drains a portion of the Thundersley area of the Benfleet Urban District by arrangement with that Council. A portion of the parish of Eastwood is now included in the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea.

In 1940, a total of 1,289 yards of ourfall sewer in the parish of Hockley was constructed at a cost of £1,001, to enable a private street to be sewered, and a further 840 yards of sewer was laid at a cost of £1,117 to serve four private streets.

In the parish of Canewdon, the drainage of several houses finds its way into five open ditches which are periodically cleansed. In Paglesham, a short length of sewer discharges into the Creek, and owing to its slight fall, has to be periodically flushed, a hand-pump being provided for this purpose.

The parish of Stambridge is served by two short lengths of sewers, one discharging into a pond, and the other into a ditch which is periodically cleansed. During 1940, it was found that part of one of these sewers was defective, and it was relaid. Having provided sewers in the populous parishes, the Council are desirous of extending sewers and making up private streets under the Private Streets Works Act, 1892, where development of such streets makes it possible. The Council have therefore entered into an agreement with the Essex County Council, who are prepared to allow the Council to act as their agents for carrying out this work.

### **Public Conveniences.**

During March, 1939, the Council erected a public convenience in Rochford. This being a market town, it was more necessary there than in any other parish.

### **Public Cleansing.**

For a number of years the District Council has undertaken the collection of household refuse in the more populous parishes, horse transport giving way to mechanical transport in 1935. Prior to 1917, public scavenging in the District was undertaken by contract in the more populous areas, but in that year the Council decided to undertake it departmentally in certain parishes. In 1929, the "Bradford" system of controlled tipping was adopted in the District—a method which has been extremely successful. Prior to the recent war, regular collections by direct labour in the parishes of Ashingdon, Barling, Canewdon, South Fambridge, Foulness, Hawkwell, Hockley, Rochford, Stambridge, Sutton, Great Wakering and Little Wakering were enjoyed by 4,465 householders, and in addition, a contractor collected regularly in the parish of Paglesham and part of the parish of Hawkwell, from 142 houses.

The war disorganised the public cleansing service, and the collections in most cases became less frequent. The collection of salvage became obligatory upon local authorities, and during the period 1940-1947, over 400 tons of waste-paper, together with many tons of metal, textiles, bones and many thousands of bottles and jars have been disposed of by the Council. Over £3,000 profit has been obtained by this scheme, and has gone towards the relief of the rates.

### **Inspection of Foods.**

This is an important function of the local authority. Prior to the last war a number of private slaughter houses were used throughout the District. A number of these premises were far from satisfactory, but most of the butchers overcame these disadvantages by the personal interest which they took in their businesses.

During and since the war, central slaughtering has been in operation. In theory, such an arrangement should be an improvement on a large number of private slaughter-houses, but if it is to prove satisfactory in practice, not only suitable and adequate premises, but proper methods of transport and the handling of meat must be provided. Since 1885, regular inspections have been carried out of dairies and cowsheds where milk is produced for sale. Prior to that year a register of these premises was kept by the Clerk of the Peace. Sooner or later the control of these premises will be taken over the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.



**Veterinary Inspection of Dairy Herds.**

The District Council in 1924, appointed a part-time Veterinary Surgeon to undertake the inspection of all dairy herds, but these duties were transferred in 1926, to the County Council.

**Housing.**

The condition of house property has improved considerably during recent years. A number of houses that were beyond repair have been condemned and demolished, and the following table sets them out in periods :—

In the period 1920-1924 there were 18 houses demolished							
„	„	„	1925-1929	„	„	23	„ „
„	„	„	1930-1934	„	„	17	„ „
„	„	„	1935-1939	„	„	50	„ „
„	„	„	1940-1944	„	„	5	„ „
„	„	„	1945-1947	„	„	2	„ „

For many years especially in the out-lying agricultural parishes, the number of houses erected year by year has not been sufficient to meet the requirements of the population, and the recent war has been instrumental in adding considerably to this problem. The number of houses erected in the District since 1902 is given in the table below :—

From 1902 to 1910 there were 1,252 houses erected.							
„	1911	1920	„	„	1,248	„	„
„	1921	1930	„	„	1,962	„	„
„	1931	1940	„	„	172	„	„
„	1940	1947	„	„	223	„	„

At the end of 1947, there were 5,912 (estimated) houses in the District.

During 1914, the District Council for the first time erected dwelling houses. These consisted of eight non-parlour type in Great Stambridge, and the loss was made a special rate on the parish. Under the Housing and Town Planning Act, 1919, (assisted scheme) the Council erected by direct labour, 24 houses in the parish of Rochford. The loss on these houses is a general rate on the whole District, limited to the product of a penny rate; the remaining loss is chargeable to the Treasury. In order to stimulate the erection of houses in the District, the Council decided on 1st April, 1924, to grant loans for the building of houses under the Housing &c. Act, 1923. By August, 1924 (although previous applications had been refused), the Ministry of Health had given their sanction for the District Council to

borrow £71,730 towards the financing of housing loans, and on that date the Council decided to make application to the Public Works Loan Board for this sum, to be repaid within a period not exceeding 20 years, by half-yearly instalments of principal with interest on the balance remaining. It was also decided that the value of a house erected under this Scheme should not exceed £1,200. By the end of 1924, there were 16 applications to build 22 houses at a cost of £10,652. During the years 1926-1931, the Council granted subsidies towards the erection of 201 houses. After the assisted scheme was stopped by the Government, nothing was undertaken by the Council until the passing of the Housing (Financial Provisions) Act, 1924, and under this Act, the Council, by the end of 1947, had erected 393 houses. With regard to post war housing, the position is extremely acute owing to the shortage of labour and materials, but a little progress has been made in this direction, and at the end of 1947, a total of 36 houses were erected by the Council.

A Rural Housing Survey has been carried out in the District, and all properties under £20 rateable value have been inspected. The purpose of the Survey is to decide a programme of housing improvements to be carried out over a number of years. Further details are given in the Report. It is the opinion of housewives that the main essentials regarding housing, are first, good accommodation, second a piped water supply inside the house, and third, electricity, the later being placed before main drainage in rural areas.

### **Street Lighting.**

During recent years, the Parish Councils have provided street lighting in the following parishes :—Ashingdon, Barling Magna, Hawkwell, Rochford, Hockley and Great Wakering.

### **Town Planning.**

At present this is controlled by a Joint Executive Planning Committee with jurisdiction over four other local authorities' areas which include the County Borough of Southend-on-Sea. From 1st July, 1948, these powers will be transferred to the County Council.

### **Playing Fields.**

In 1929 the Council purchased the first site for playing fields in the parish of Rochford, and by the end of 1947 had acquired the following :—



Ashingdon (King George's Field)	...	14 acres
Hawkwell Common	... ..	1 acre
Hockley Woods	... ..	64 acres
Rochford Recreation Ground	... ..	11.7 acres
Great Wakering Recreation Ground	...	10 acres

The war interfered with the development of these schemes, and at the end of 1947, some were only partially developed for organised games. In addition, 6 acres are set aside on the Council's housing site at Rochford as a playing field. At Hockley Woods, catering is undertaken by the Council.

### **British Restaurant.**

Since 1942, the Council have maintained in the parish of Rochford, a British Restaurant which serves the whole District.

### **Unmade Roads.**

No fewer than 2,399 dwelling houses in the District are on unmade roads, an equivalent to 41 per cent of the total houses in the District. The percentage varies from parish to parish, for example, in the parish of Hockley, they constitute 69 per cent, in Hawkwell, 60 per cent, and in Ashingdon 51 per cent. Such conditions make it difficult to provide sanitary services. Unmade roads remain one of the most difficult problems confronting any Authority in administering a District, especially with regard to the Rochford Rural District where 43 per cent of these properties have an average rateable value of under £8.

Recently a writer describing sanitary conditions in another area, far removed from Rochford, remarked, "Gone are the days when a country wife can be expected to fill the role of a family slave that was her mother's. For her, no

- (a) Living in a damp insanitary house.
- (b) Eternal carrying of water from a distant well or stand-pipe.
- (c) Messing with paraffin lamps.
- (d) Squelching along "roads" ankle deep in mud.
- (e) Isolated from neighbours, shops, vans and 'buses.

And who can blame her?"

One would have thought from the above description, that the writer had under consideration some areas in the Rochford Rural District.

I have outlined the past, what of the future?

The following no doubt will receive the consideration of the Council :

- (1) The erection of more houses by the Council.
- (2) The extension of water supply mains.
- (3) The provision of drainage and sewerage, especially in the more populous areas without this service.
- (4) Application to the Electricity Authority for the extension of this service to areas at present not provided with a supply of electricity.
- (5) The making up of unmade roads so that services can be provided to householders in these roads which they do not at present enjoy.